

## Federal Disaster Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes

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## **SBA APPROVES OVER \$5 MILLION IN TEXAS**

**FT. WORTH, TX** – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced today that over \$5 million in disaster loans has been approved to local area residents and businesses stemming from Hurricane Claudette that occurred on July 15 - 28, 2003.

"As of today, SBA has approved disaster loans for \$5,021,000 to homeowners, renters and business owners that suffered losses as a result of the disaster. These loans will help repair residences, replace lost or damaged personal property, help businesses repair physical damage and replenish working capital," said SBA Disaster Area Director, Raymond P. Chatham.

SBA's disaster loans are a critical source of economic stimulation in disaster-ravaged communities, helping spur employment and stabilize tax bases. SBA helps homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and nonprofit organizations fund repairs and rebuilding efforts, and covers the costs of replacing lost or damaged personal property.

The deadline for submitting applications for physical losses is September 16, 2003. Small business owners interested in applying for Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance may do so until April 19, 2004.

To assist individuals and business owners in completing their loan applications and answer questions about the disaster loan programs, SBA representatives are available at Disaster Recovery Centers within the affected area; call 1-800-366-6303 for the Center nearest you. Persons with damage from the Hurricane are encouraged to seek assistance by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or by visiting the Disaster Recovery Centers.

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For more information about the SBA Disaster Loan Programs, visit our website at www.sba.gov/disaster.